## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05498 080730Z

12

**ACTION NEA-16** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 080540Z JUN 74 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD TO EYSECSTATE WASHDC 5117 INFO MAMEMBASSY DACCA 1085 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI AMEMBASSY LONDON USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, BD, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO VISIT TO BANGLADESH

- 1. IN JUNE 6 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA, ABDUL SATTAR, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT GOP "IS READY" FOR GOOD, COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH IF BDG SO DESIRES. GOP HAS NOW PROPOSED JUNE 27 AS DATE FOR BHUTTO VISIT TO DACCA AND IS AWAITING BDG RESPONSE. SATTAR EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INDIA MIGHT PUT PRESSURE ON MUJIB TO DELAY TALKS AS MEANS OF INDICATING GOI IRRITATION OVER POSTPONEMENT OF INDO-PAK TALKS IN WAKE OF INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST (ISLAMABAD 5270).
- 2. SATTAR INDICATED THAT BRIEFING PAPERS PREPARED BY MFA FOR BHUTTO BANGLADESH VISIT HAVE HIGHLIGHTED GOP IMPRESSION THAT MANY IN BANGLADESH ARE NOSTALGIC FOR OLD ECONOMIC AND, TO MUCH LESSER EXTENT, POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PAKISTAN. PAPERS PREPARED ON TRADE BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH APPARENTLY WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05498 080730Z

STRESS FUTURE TRADE MUST BE ON COMMERCIAL, NOT

CONCESSIONAL TERMS, THAT BDG WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE ON OPEN MARKET FOR PAK RICE AND THAT BENGALEE TEA WOULD FIND MARKET HERE ONLY IF IT WERE CHEAPER THAN HIGH GRADE SRI LANKAN PRODUCT.

3. COMMENT: APPARENT GOP PRESUMPTION THAT INDIA WOULD WANT TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH DACCA TO PUT ROADBLOCKS TO PAK-BANGLADESH TALKS IS UNFORTUNATELY TYPICAL OF THE PAKISTAN/INDIA VIEW OF ONE ANOTHER, ALTHOUGH SATTAR STRESSED TRADE AS LIKELY TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION DURING BHUTTO VISIT, THIS MAY REFLECT GOP ASSESSMENT THAT THIS REPRESENTS THE PAK STRONG POINT IN ANY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HE MENZMONED ONLY BRIEFLY KNOTTY MATTERS OF DIVISION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES. EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM SEVERAL KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES THAT BHUTTO WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM BDG TO TAKE MORE BIHARIS. UNDP RESIDENT REP IN ISLAMABAD BELIEVES THAT HE MAY AGREE TO SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE BUT NOTHING APPROACHING THE APPROXIMATELY 250,000 REMAINING BIHARIS IN BANGLADESH WHOSE APPLICATIONS TO MOVE TO PAKISTAN WERE TURNED DOWN BY GOP. LUPPI

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